

**From:** Terence E. Shelton  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 12/14/01 4:57pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft

You should be ashamed of your proposed settlement with Microsoft! They are an abusive illegal monopoly and we the taxpayers pay your salary to protect us from them.

Microsoft does not invent. I have challenged several news groups to name a single software invention from Microsoft, so far there are two, BOB and DLL hell. Everything else was invented by others, mostly individuals and small companies, only to have Microsoft copy their ideas and bake them into their product lines. This usurping of others ideas is the greatest hindrance to advancement for the software industry today. Nobody wants to put down the time and effort to write neat and useful programs because they know they will never be able to capitalize on it, Microsoft will copy it and get all the money.

What will your proposed settlement do to hinder this in the future? As far as I can see nothing!

At least the 'hold out states' proposed solution provides a glimmer of hope for breaking the monopoly. They appear to be doing your job.

When I was an officer in the Navy we were restricted in our purchases from IBM because they were quasi-monopoly. Does that restriction still apply? Hopefully so! That would put the entire US government including the DOD out of Microsoft's pocket. That would break the monopoly and rekindle the innovation in the software industry.

Terence E. Shelton, MCSE  
Systems Administrator

Nathan D. Maier Consulting Engineers Inc.  
8080 Park Lane #600  
Dallas, Texas 75231  
Phone 214.739.4741